

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A miniature inverted-repeat transposable element (MITE)-like element capable of causing duplication of the target sequence: (A)_nG(A)_n [n being an integer of not less than 1] at the site of insertion thereof in a genomic gene, which has perfect or imperfect terminal inverted repeat sequences in the 5' and 3' terminal regions.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Previously presented) A MITE-like element as claimed in Claim 1 which contains, in the sequence thereof, a plurality of repetitions of at least one of the nucleotide sequences represented by the formula (1): XttgcaaY (wherein X represents g or t and Y represents a or c) or the formula (2): Zatgcaa (wherein Z represents t or a).

4. (Previously presented) A MITE-like element as claimed in Claim 1 which has, as terminal inverted repeat sequences, a nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO: 10 in the 5' terminal region and a nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO: 11 in the 3' terminal region.

5. (Previously presented) A MITE-like element comprising the following DNA (a) or (b):

(a) a DNA having a nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) a DNA capable of hybridizing with a DNA having a complementary sequence to the above nucleotide sequence (a) under stringent conditions and capable of causing duplication of the target sequence: (A)_nG(A)_n [n being an integer of not less than 1] at the site of insertion thereof in a genomic gene.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A transcriptional activation element characterized by containing at least one MITE-like element according to any of claims 1, 3, 4, or 5 as a transposable element.

9-10. (Cancelled)

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11. (Previously presented) A transcriptional activation element as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the transposable element is a tandem coupling product from a MITE-like element comprising the following DNA (a) or (b):

(a) a DNA having the nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) a DNA capable of hybridizing with a DNA having a complementary sequence to the above nucleotide sequence (a) under stringent conditions and capable of causing duplication of (A)_nG(A)_n [n being an integer of not less than 1] at the site of insertion thereof in a genomic gene,

and a MITE-like element comprising the following DNA (c) or (d):

(c) a DNA having the nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:2;

(d) a DNA capable of hybridizing with a DNA having a complementary sequence to the above nucleotide sequence (c) under stringent conditions and capable of causing duplication of TA at the site of insertion thereof in a genomic gene.

12. (Original) A transcriptional activation element comprising a DNA having the nucleotide sequence shown under SEQ ID NO:3.

13-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A transcriptional activation element comprising a DNA having the nucleotide sequence shown ~~under~~ as SEQ ID NO: 14.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A transgene expression cassette which comprises the transcriptional activation element of any ~~one of~~ of Claims 8, 12, and 21, and a DNA sequence operatively joined to said element.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A transgene expression cassette as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the DNA sequence operatively joined to the transcriptional activation element comprises a promoter and/or a terminator.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) A transgene expression cassette as claimed in Claim 23, which further comprises, as the DNA sequence operatively joined to the transcriptional activation element, a desired transgene sequence to be expressed.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) A plasmid containing the transcriptional activation element of any of Claims 8, 12, and 21.

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Claim 26. (Previously presented) A plasmid containing the transgene expression cassette of Claim 22.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant which contains the transgene expression cassette of Claim 22.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant as claimed in Claim 27 which is corn, rice, wheat, lily, chrysanthemum, cotton, soybean, beet, potato or carica papaya.